

USSN: 10/520,698
Attorney Docket: I-2002.010 US
Amendment and Response

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title appearing on page 1, line 1 with the following title:

Method of Preparing an Immunogenic Fusion Protein Comprising *Babesia* Polypeptides

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, lines 12-20 with the following paragraph:

The *B. divergens*, isolate Rouen 1987, was derived from a human Babesiosis patient, and was used to study the Bd37 exoantigen, as described by B. Carcy et al. (1995, Infect. & Immun., vol. 63, p. 811 – 817). The nucleotide sequence of the corresponding cDNA is available under acc. nr. AJ422214 from the NCBI database. The core polypeptide of Bd37 that can be used as a core polypeptide for the invention, comprises the Bd37 sequence, available protein sequence under NCBI acc. nr: CAD19563, without the N-terminal and C-terminal hydrophobic sequences. For instance the Bd37-core consists of Ser-25 up to and including Ser-316 from NCBI acc. nr: CAD19563. This core is given by the following sequence:

SCTNLNGSQEAAAANPVVSTPGNDAQQAGTQQGGANSKSVPEQQPQQAAGETTATVVV
KTLDVLRGELRGQREAFLSEIIKSDGPFTILQLVGYLRVVTDLLLKVVDSTKVDAGKKV
KAYLEKIGIRGDSVEAALDNLMIKVYEITKGTVESSAQGTDSEELKTLKKFSEDLKAEQE
LHSEAKGGEALLSSMKTQHDELLKKFAALTPTFLTSEDISGYLTVPEYGAPMNAAKWKK
VEGMIHGKLESSEVPANLKALVAELIELREQMMDLLYGPIGHHDCAAGSGOGSS (SEQ
ID NO.: 20).